

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
January 9, 2004
Conference Call

Members Present: Arlene Brown, President
 Alan Todd, Vice President
 Helen Jones
 Lee Otto
 Spencer Ellis
 John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Reed Gardner
 Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
 Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
 Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
 Hank Uhden
 Ann Wittmann, WBC Executive Director

Guests: Jennifer Womack, representing the Wyoming
 Livestock Roundup
 Jeff Gearino, representing the Casper Star Tribune

The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 1:35 p.m. on January 9, 2004.

Issues

The department met with the Joint Appropriations Committee to present our budget and answer any questions they may have. They had very few questions and it went well.

John informed everyone that Kate Moon resigned due to her husband's health. John asked if anyone had a recommendation for her replacement and noted they have to be either an independent or a democrat. Kate had suggested Sharon O'Toole.

Lee Romsa updated the members on the emergency rules their board had voted on which included mandatory testing in all breeding females before changing ownership, feeders going into the breeding herd have to be tested prior to going into the herd. The rules state the animals must be tested 60 days prior to the sale date. Within the rules, they are eliminating the use of the air stunning process. The rules go into effect February 10. They are also promulgating the regular rules simultaneously. They have had a request for a public hearing and one will be scheduled.

Lee Otto asked the board to create policies to cover BSE and COOL that he could take to Washington DC later in the month. The board in turn, asked that Jim Schwartz and John

Etchepare prepare some draft policies they could review and adopt.

Lee Otto had also talked with Russ Zimmer regarding some concerns he has with the seed lab in Powell. The board felt it would be a good idea to invite Russ to the February 11th meeting to discuss them with Russ.

John Etchepare said the department has decided to continue the milk program this year. We are hoping to double the amount of milk distributed to producers this year. Arlene was concerned that the program has or will affect other feed suppliers. She indicated there were several hay producers who are struggling. After discussing the program, it was felt by most that the milk program was not affecting the price of hay. Several members stated that it had not been as harsh a winter as in the past, some producers were able to put up more hay than in past years, and that the milk could be put with the hay. The program will still be tied to the drought.

Helen Jones had some concern about the affect the BSE situation has caused regarding financing for producers in the future. Jim Schwartz recommended we invite Dave Johnson of the WY Bankers Association to the February 11th meeting.

Spencer Ellis was wondering if the boarder closing with Canada was still in effect. John indicated the comment period had been extended so therefore it would remain closed. He also had some concerns about an "Eat Beef Week" that had been declared by 6 surrounding states. He wondered why our Governor hadn't signed such a proclamation, especially when the beef industry needed a shot in the arm. Ann Wittman, Executive Director of the Beef Council said she knew nothing about this issue. She said that sometimes, several governors or other will get together and decide to do something like this and not include everyone. Several states schedule a variety of beef promotions but seldom include the surrounding states. She and Jim Schwartz will be putting together some plans for Eat Beef Week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Brown, President

Date